

WRESTLING FORUM

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ISSUE 19

Wrestling's Best Kept Secret

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STILL NO MAC

FOR THOSE OF YOU FOLLOWING the never ending saga of "Jon tries to become computerized," we are still without our Mac. We bought the MacIntosh more than a month ago (or at least ordered it) through a program that gives special discounts to teachers (which my wife is one of). Trouble is, you can't just go in and pick up your Mac; you have to order it and that takes four to six weeks. I feel like a little kid waiting for Christmas! It still isn't here so it's back to the old Brother AX-25 for one more time.

THIS IS WRESTLING FORUM, and we publish on the 15th and 30th of each month, or thereabouts. Price per issue is \$1.50 and you may subscribe for upto six months worth at any one time. All renewals, letters to the editor, match results, news items, or any other stuff you think we'd be interested in, can be sent to us at WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448 unless otherwise specifically noted (like with the Barometer and the tournament).

AGAIN I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE for a couple of things. Last issue went out later than we wanted and I've been extremely hard to get hold of during the past month. As many of you know, I hurt my arm at work more than a year ago and no one can figure out why it isn't getting any better. For some reason, my right arm can only lift about 20% of what my left arm can (and I used to be right handed). As a result, my doctor has been sending me for therapy more and more. We've been up to four hours a day during the past few weeks. Combine that with eight hours of work per day and (theoretically) eight hours of sleep and that only leaves four hours of free time per day. I'm working on a book on top of all this (local basketball history) and that research has to be complete by the end of this month so I'm spending as much time as I can in the Library going over microfilm and other records trying to complete that project.

THE TIME BEING SPENT ON putting together the newsletter comes mainly from when the baby takes her nap in the mid mornings, very late at night, and weekends. I'm HOPING this all changes drastically in the next few weeks. I'm headed back to the doctor the first week of November and hopefully he'll cut down (or out) this useless therapy.

DUE TO OTHER PERSONAL problems, mainly a car that should be shot and put out of its misery, we probably won't be coming up to Halloween Havoc. I'll be looking very closely at heading for St. Louis, however, for Starrcade. It's nice living exactly the same distance from both Chicago and St. Louis. Should things drastically change (you know, like winning the lottery, a few McMillions, or something like that), we'll be up, but don't count on us right now.

NOW DESPITE THE NEGATIVE tone of this page so far, and given the fact that I've just returned from a four hour Titan TV taping marathon, I'm in a great mood. Giddy, you might say. Lack of sleep does that to me. There's lots going on this time around including the beginning of the Ring of Immortals balloting, the tournament for the USWA title, the latest WWF tapes, a prelude to Halloween Havoc, plus our own tournament, so without any further gabfesting, let's get on with this issue...

FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT
BY SEAN GRANDE

Let's take a look at the results of the second half of round one before getting into the match ups for round two...

Ric Flair penned Minoru Suzuki 24-0
 Bossman jailed Sam Houston 15-9
 Brad Armstrong rolled Ricky Morton 18-6
 Riki Choshu flew past Koko B Ware 22-2
 Terry Gordy crushed Bill Dundee 23-1
 Rick Martel slammed Dirty White Boy Anthony 21-3
 Tito Santana plowed Tommy Rich 20-4
 Hulk Hogan squashed Joe Savoldi 23-1
 Steve Williams doctored Jeff Gaylord 24-0
 Samoan Fatu boogied past Jimmy Valiant 17-6
 Kuzuo Yamazaki electrified Dick Slater 12-10
 Rick Steiner steinerized Derrick Dukes 24-0
 Masa Saito bombarded Jeff Jarrett 23-1
 Bam Bam Bigelow bulled past Manny Fernandez 19-4
 Jacques Rougeau slipped past Marty Jannetty 13-11
 Rick Steamboat capsized Vic Steamboat 22-2
 Great Muta dazzled Ron Slinker 24-0
 Stan Lane beat Nicolai Volkoff 15-8
 Ron Simmons doomed Bobby Fulton 17-7
 Ultimate Warrior blew up Brickhouse Brown 21-3
 Tatsumi Fujinami shelled Chris Champion 16-7
 Tully Blanchard evangelized Doug Furnas 21-3
 Jim Duggan bored Funaki Kobayashi 13-11
 Stan Hansen lassoeed Kensuki Sasaki 23-1
 Road Warrior Hawk demolished Boris Zhukov 23-0
 Tiger Mask flipped Billy Jack Haynes 22-2
 Lizmark slithered past Ken Patera 12-10
 Nobuhiku Takada stretched Tommy Jammer 18-6
 Pat Tanaka bounced past Snowman 17-7
 Big Van Vader streaked by Terry Taylor 15-9
 Butch Reed downed Yoshiaki Fujiwara 19-5
 Ted DiBiase cashed in Beetlejuice 24-0

DEADLINE FOR VOTES IS 11/10
SEND VOTES TO
SEAN GRANDE
726 COMMONWEALTH AVE
BOX 4-S
BOSTON, MA 02215

THE MATCH UPS FOR ROUND TWO are as follows:

Barry Windham vs Demolition Crush
 Eddie Gilbert vs Jushin Riger
 Akira Maeda vs Jumbo Tsuruta
 Tommy Rogers vs Bret Hart
 Owen Hart vs Tony Atlas
 Kerry Von Erich vs Road Warrior Animal
 Lex Luger vs Bob Orton
 Scott Steiner vs Genichiro Tenryu
 Randy Savage vs Yoshiaki Kawada
 Jake Roberts vs Jerry Lawler
 Larry Zbyszko vs Paul Orndorff
 Shane Douglas vs Bobby Eaton
 Sting vs Kengo Kimura
 Bad News Brown vs Arn Anderson
 Chris Adams vs Rick Rude
 Roddy Piper vs Curt Hennig

Ric Flair vs Bossman
 Brad Armstrong vs Riki Choshu
 Terry Gordy vs Rick Martel
 Tito Santana vs Steve Williams
 Hulk Hogan vs Samoan Fatu
 Kazuo Yamazaki vs Rick Steiner
 Masa Saito vs Bam Bam Bigelow
 Jacques Rougeau vs Ricky Steamboat
 Great Muta vs Stan Lane
 Ron Simmons vs Ultimate Warrior
 Tatsumi Fujinami vs Tully Blanchard
 Jim Duggan vs Stan Hansen
 Road Warrior Hawk vs Tiger Mask
 Lizmark vs Nobuhiku Takada
 Pat Tanaka vs Big Van Vader
 Butch Reed vs Ted DiBiase

TO VOTE, JUST send your selections of the winners to the address above.
 Winners are determined by the number of votes received.

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

HAVE YOU CAUGHT THE latest AWA shows? They are telling us that they are celebrating the 40th anniversary. Hold the phone. If I remember my wrestling history correctly (and if I don't, Ed Garea and a host of readers will be right there to correct me), the AWA started when there was a controversy surrounding the champion of the NWA. I believe that Verne Gagne had defeated Ed Carpentier, but the NWA refused to recognize the win. Certain promoters in the midwest then broke off from the NWA and demanded a return match. They started the AWA and recognized Carpentier as the first champion and gave him six months to defend the title against Gagne. He didn't and the title was then given to Gagne. This all happened in January-June of 1957.

I'VE SPENT THE BETTER part of the last three years convincing people that whatever year it is minus 1957 is twenty nine. I sure don't need the AWA coming in and telling people it's 40!!! I guess the AWA has become so adept at lying to fans that they've even forgotten basic arithmetic. I knew they had trouble with numbers when it comes to attendance, gates and number of shows booked annually, but this is ridiculous!!!

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

HERB ABRAMS HELD HIS set of tapings in California on October 9. It would appear that he's got more money than brains (which from preliminary reports means he's got about \$1.19) as he continues to bring in talent and spare no expenses with the taping. This taping used a total of seven cameras. Even the WWF tapings I attended didn't have that many.

ANYWAY, ANOTHER HEEL crowd was on hand to see the action, about 400 in all. Tim Patterson worked under a hood as the Bounty Hunter and he had as his manager, California legend John Tolos (even us midwesterners have heard about his classic battles with Fred Blassie). Nikita Koloff worked a squash and was then jumped by none other than Uncle Ivan. who beat him up using a chain.

KEN PATERA WORKED AS a babyface at the start of the show, but fans kept chanting "Jailbird" at him. Later in the show he worked as a heel against Billy Jack Haynes without the benefit of a turn. This feud should be a battle of the full nelsons.

CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO WAS on hand as well and he told the audience that he had a big surprise later on in the show. Big literally. He brought out Andre the Giant right towards the end. Interesting that as they did their in ring interview, some of the ring crew was in the ring trying to stomp down a protruding bolt in the mat. That will probably make TV.

A NEWCOMER IS THE VIKING who's about 6'3 and 300 pounds of chemicals and muscle. His gimmick is to have his opponents carried out on a stretcher after he beats them.

OTHER NAMES APPEARING WERE Cactus Jack, Paul Orndorff, B. Brian Blair & Honey, and Jay Strongbow Jr.

FEATURE MATCHES DURING the taping had Cactus Jack beating David Sammartino (amidst cheers); Orndorff beat Bob Orton by COR; Nikita drew Ivan; Cactus Jack no contest with Strongbow as Sammartino and Jack Armstrong did run ins; and Pater beat Billy Jack by DQ.

MY THANKS TO ANDY DRAGOS for supplying us with the telephone report on the card.

DAVEY "THE OBSERVER" MELTZER did not appear on this set of tapes. Abrams reportedly caught hell from some of the boys who either resented this inside of a joke or didn't think that the sheets deserved any publicity from the WWF. I've been assured the matter is over and done with and we won't be bothered with it again.

DENNIS CORALUZZO IS RUNNING an independent show in Philadelphia on 11/9 to help offset the medical costs of good friend Tom Robinson. Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express are going to work the show as a special favor with Jim Herd's permission. Jerry Lawler will also be on the card as well as a special match involving a couple of sheet writers and friends of Tom.

ROB RUSSEN'S INTERNATIONAL Wrestling Association ran several shows the last week of September in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey area. Crowds weren't spectacular with the largest being 752, but he sells ads in a program booklet that is either given or sold at the arenas. The ads are sold through telemarketing to local merchants. Larry Cameron was not allowed to work in New Jersey when his pre match physical turned up some weird numbers in his EKG.

GEORGE SCOTT'S NORTH ATLANTIC Wrestling Association is experiencing some internal problems. Rumors last week had George walking out and leaving (depending on who you talk to) either Paul Jones or Robert Fuller in charge. Still a phone call to their offices early this week gave no impression that anything had changed. Although Scott was not in at the moment to take a phone call, the secretary did say he would return my call. I declined to leave a name or number since I was more interested in what they would tell me when I asked for him.

WORD IS IN FROM JAPAN that Onita has given up on the Gonzales angle. He got more heat from both wrestlers and press, not to mention fans, than he ever expected. In order to save whatever is left of his career, he decided it was best to just forget about the whole thing. Trouble is, I doubt if the fans forget that easily.

SAVOLDI'S INTERNATIONAL Championship Wrestling is still on hiatus and showing vintage matches from their past. Lex Luger was one of the featured wrestlers from one of his very first matches, and you have to see what he looked like then to appreciate what he is now.

NO WORD ON WHEN THEY will resume taping TV shows. Mike Viola should return next issue with a report from the ICW and we'll try to update you at that time.

NOT EVEN A PEEP OUT of Windy City, but former Windy City promoter Allan Eppenstein is booking shows in the Chicagoland area for Eddie Sharkey and the Pro Wrestling America group. They've run a couple of shows already in the suburbs and I'm told they are using a similar approach to Rob Russen's IWA.

CHRIS ADAMS IS CALLING around to independent promoters offering his services. This has sparked speculation that he quit World Class, but we've not heard that for sure.

SPEAKING OF WORLD CLASS (and where else to put a promotion with no TV but in the Independent report?), Kevin is still running weekly shows at the Sportatorium in Dallas to crowds that seem to dwindle in half lifes. Brickhouse Brown and Gary Young both worked the Memphis tournament and Brown is scheduled for additional show in both promotions so it would appear that there is not a problem with Jarrett or Von Erich allowing wrestlers to work both places. Either that, or neither knows about the other.

PENCIL POINTS!

PLAYING A LITTLE BOYS' GAME

Your article last issue that compared wrestling to as a game of cops and robbers was an analogy I'd never considered before, but thinking back to childhood, it certainly makes sense. Remember shooting at each other with either cap guns or the dreaded lethal fingers? No one would ever fall down dead. I suppose that as children, our egos wouldn't allow us to lose. So when it comes to being grown up and making a living playing a similar game, it make sense that no one would want to fall down dead (do a job) either.

But what I found most fascinating about the article was the mental attitudes of those interviewed. I have no idea of knowing if they have talent or not, but I've come to trust your judgment of such things. To think that not only are their egos so inflated that they have trouble doing jobs sometimes, but that they disillusion themselves into thinking they have a chance of making it big someday is mind boggling.

As a follow up, I'd like to see you do some sort of interview with those who have made it big after struggling in the independent circuit. I'd like to know how their attitudes and outlooks change over the years.

-KEN SNIDER-

-Waukegan, IL-

I'd like to think that I know a lot of the independent boys like you describe. I've worked with a lot of them and seen the things you describe: no talent but a desire to get ahead. There's nothing wrong with having confidence in yourself, but the article did make me step back and take a long look at what I do for a living.

I think that a lot of the wrestlers don't realize, nor do certain newsletter editors, that talent isn't the thing that will get you somewhere in wrestling. Take a look at Sid Vicious, Ultimate Warrior, Dino Bravo or Junk Yard Dog. They didn't get to where they are based on their precious workrates. They got lucky breaks. They were in the right place at the right time with the right gimmick.

It's hard to admit to yourself that you don't have talent. It's hard to be a judge of how you did in the ring. A lot of the guys realize that with one lucky break, they could go places fast. Why bother worrying about ability when that's the case. And until that moment happens, what's wrong with having a lot of confidence in yourself?

As for myself, I don't care if the lucky break never comes along. I don't care if I'm never ranked in your top ten. I know I have the ability to go out night after night and fool people into thinking I'm hurt when I'm not. Even with a payoff of \$35.00 a match, that works out to about \$210.00 per hour. Not bad for a part time job.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

THE AMAZING FORESIGHT OF KEVIN VON ERICH

Kevin Von Erich continues to amaze me with his brilliance as a businessman. Imagine this: Kevin comes home some night to find that his house hads been cleaned out. No furniture, no rugs, no drapes, no nothing. Empty. He sits down and says, "Damn. My wife sent everything out to the cleaners again."

If the Dallas end of the USWA was doing so poorly, why didn't this idiot just wait a few more weeks until he attempted his takeover? Or do it a few weeks earlier when he and his family might have had a chance of saving the Dallas TV spot? Is it because he enjoys the challenge of building something from scratch? Is it because he sees himself as invincible? Does he think that brother Kerry will come home with the Intercontinental title and save the day?

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What it comes down to is this: Kevin Von Erich has the promotional ability of a burned out light bulb. He has the business sense of a flat tire. What Kev needs to do is go back home, get out the scrap book of the glory days and just think back to how it used to be. Then he should pick up the phone and call Verne Gagne to get some advice on how to really run a successful promotion.

-ERIC HOYME-
-Indianapolis, IN-

SUPPORTS STAN HANSEN

If you're looking for letters supporting Stan Hansen, you got one. I'm sorry he's too real for you Jon, but I'm one of his biggest fans and I jump for the VCR when ever he's on. If a wrestler is scared of him, he shouldn't get in the ring with him or he should take a few shots at him to get his respect and keep him off of you. Whatever, it's a wrestler's problem not a fan's and it jhust makes Stan more interesting to watch. I know wrestlers are responsible for protecting each other, but they should still be at least semi-tough and able to protect themselves. I think Hansen's great and one of the top ten attractions in the wrestling world. After starting the year looking washed up, he's come back to have great matches with Hogan, Vader, Williams, Gordy and others. He's had more four star matches this year than Sting's had in his career. Stan and Brody made big names for themselves by kicking the snot out of the Japanese and I think he deserves respect even if he's dented a few soft Americans. The people who dislike Hansen probably wouldn't have enjoyed Brody much either. Stan Hansen will be remembered as one of the legends of our time.

-STEVE YOHE-
-Alhambra, CA-

SUGGESTIONS

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR YEARBOOK SUGGESTIONS, I'VE ALWAYS wanted to see a "favorite one liners" category, featuring not only stuff from interviews and heel announcers, but inadvertently funny goofs by babyfaces as well. Things such as Hogan saying "The hard part was not to take any of those shortcuts," or Andre calling Duggan "Jigsaw."

Actually, this is probably something that could fill a page every issue or so. Everyone has a few classics from some period or another. In fact, if promoters really wanted to pick up business, they'd stop looking for mega-buck salary prima donnas or fancy gimmicks, and just hire a couple of savvy comedy writers. I've always followed the sport for what happens first in the VERBAL arena. Any chance on trying this as a regular column? I think it could prove to be a very popular feature.

-JOE COUGHLIN-
-Boston, MA-

EDITOR: Our very own Mike Viola is working on a feature of this sort for the yearbook. Perhaps after the arrival of the computer, we'll rearrange the format just enough to include a feature of this sort on a semi-regular basis.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

THIS IS BECOMING A regular story for us...Barry Windham is AWOL...again. He's been out due to an "injury" that he claimed to have had, but he's not been heard from since he left. One has to wonder if Windham really wants to make his living as a professional wrestler or not. He's walked out on the WWF, then the NWA, then the WWF again, and now, apparently the NWA. This is the kind of thing you do to get a bad rep fast. His father, Blackjack Mulligan, had a reputation of "holding up" promoters back in the 70's. Prior to a big match, Blackjack would go in and demand more money or he'd leave. At that time, territories still existed and he could still make a good living by bouncing from one promotion to another. Nowadays, with basically only the NWA and WWF, that's not the case. If Barry wants to get payoffs of \$25.00 a night, there's plenty of work for him. But let's face it; if the guy isn't going to show up when he's supposed to, he isn't even worth that much money.

LAST FRIDAY NIGHT the NWA hotline had what they called a "Fan Jam" where fans who called in didn't have to listen to recorded messages that tart in the middle; they could talk with other fans as well as NWA announcers. Word has it that things went well and that about 40% of the callers had inside knowledge. I was also told that they had some sort of a plan to cut callers off if they knew too much but either the system didn't work, or they decided that the 45¢ per minute they were getting from the know it alls was enough to cover any damage done.

THEY SHOT TWO ANGLES in Chicago on their last trip in to further cement a couple of matches/feuds. The first was with the Steiners and the Nasty Boys. They brought a table into the ring for the two teams to sign the contracts. The Nasty Boys signed first. When the Steiners started to sign, the Nasty Boys picked up the tag belts laying on the table and attacked the brothers with them. Scott took an awesome looking shot to the head. The Boys left the Brothers for dead.

THE SECOND ANGLE WAS with Sting and Sid Vicious. Words were exchanged during the signing of their contract but nothing physical (had to happen once, but couldn't happen twice). During Sting's match with Black Scorpion #431, Vicious ran in and beat up Sting.

SPEAKING OF THE BLACK Scorpion, they were going to just drop this whole thing without there really being a conclusion. But with the last Clash of Champions setting new records in terms of viewership, Ole has decided to continue things. Originally this was supposed to be a filler between feuds, sor of like JYD vs Flair. But with the fan response being so impressive, Black Scorpion (whoever they use this time) will be the headline match at Starrcade. Because they had planned to just let it drop, Ole did not have any one wrestler in mind to be under the mask with a vendetta. Now, he has to come up with a wrestler with a suitable storyline in case they do unmask him and bring the angle to an end.

TALK RIGHT NOW IS THAT Starrcade will be a one night tournament for tag teams, much like the Crocket Cup. This might do alright if they build it properly. If they limit the number of teams in the tournament, then have qualifying matches on the TBS shows and syndicated package, interest might be high enough to do decently on the PPV. But, if they just run it as a flat out one night tournament, expect it to bomb, just like Wrestlemania IV.

JOHNNIE STEWART WORKED a couple of dates for the NWA on their recent Midwest swing. I think he would have liked to have been offered a job, but nothing was offered.

THIS PAST WEEKEND'S TBS show featured a tremendous match between the Steiners and the Midnight Express. The Steiners seem to keep getting better and better while the Midnight Express were just the usual superb. Rick Steiner got a tight racquet shot to the head by Cornette and also go hard way blood in the process. The Steiners won by pinfall.

THE TAPING AT CENTER Stage in Atlanta aren't free anymore. A whole \$4.00 is charged now for admission. Lots of complaints by the fans.

STAN HANSEN HAS TAKEN off for Japan but he'll be back in time for Havoc. In the meantime, Luger will be feuding with Mike Moore who used to part of a tag team called the Motor City Mad Men (trivia note: first team or wrestler Paul E Dangersouly ever managed). This is strictly a short term feud and Moore's future after they run the course is uncertain.

THIS NEXT COULD BE SIGNIFICANT. Ted Turner's battery of lawyers met with NWA wrestlers this past week. Although no one would come right out and tell us why, it was speculated that renegotiations of contracts is the subject matter. One source outside the NWA said that Turner had been threatening to shut everything down if concessions weren't made. USA Today reported last week that Turner's Board of Directors had turned down several proposed sporting ventures on Turner's part due to the cash-flow problems brought on by the Goodwill games.

MORE STATIONS DROPPING off the syndicated roster. One NWA employee told me that it was going to be just like starting a network from scratch. One thing they will be looking at closely, I'm told, is the number and concentration of Fox Network stations that were lost. Those statistics might have a very interesting story to tell.

THE WGN DEAL IS NICE to have and it will come in handy in pushing Havoc. But, as they have proven with WTBS, a superstation doesn't help draw fans to house shows unless you direct the show at one particular market. In other words, the WGN show will help draw fans to Chicago shows, but since they basically have nothing between Chicago and Atlanta (save Memphis and St Louis and those markets are hurting), other than added exposure (which is sometimes not good to have that much exposure) it's not helping them a bit.

THE NEXT CLASH OF CHAMPIONS (and someone should take a good long look at the Name of the series) will be on 11/20 and feature more new and debuting talent. This is a sore spot with some of the old timers in the NWA as they consider the new guys to be sort of like non-union scabs. It's a catch-22 situation though. If they continue to hire the green guys, they are keeping "names" from coming in and making money. If they bring in names and pay them the prevailing wage for established stars, then they'll be bankrupt in no time. One of the boys I talked with said, "This is the damn NWA! Not some (censored) training school!"

WORD IS THAT JJ DILLON has left Titan Sports and will be returning to work in the NWA. Don't expect to see him working in front of the camera however. The job will be similar to the position he held with Titan. Something tells me that he'll be popping up in front of the lens soon though. I think that may be part of the reason he's not with the Fed anymore.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

REMEMBERING PAT O'CONNOR, PART 2

Pat O'Connor was taking the Midwest wrestling scene by storm. Through the advantageous use of television, O'Connor was rapidly becoming a household name to the millions of wrestling fans who tuned in each week. Part 1 of the marketing of O'Connor was successfully completed: O'Connor had gone over well with the fans in his preliminary tests. The next step in the formation of a star was television, which had the ability to expose a wrestler to markets he had not yet visited and thus create a demand. To make sure Pat was a marketable commodity, much time was spent in preparing him as a "personality". He was coached on interview technique, given a character keeping with his natural image, and taught the techniques of television wrestling, such as camera position. But all this can fail if there is little to market; if the fans decide not to buy. All the pushing in the world cannot change the outcome.

Pat passed all these tests and began his climb up the ladder to superstardom. He traveled to each major territory and spent time there, meeting the top challengers, keeping his name before the fans. He also won and held several regional belts during this period, building up an impressive resume.

His most significant move during this period was one that would ultimately affect the NWA. Pat changed his affiliation from Stecher's Minneapolis office to Muchnick's St. Louis office by way of Fred Kohler's Chicago office. The late Fifties witnessed the unraveling of the NWA as a monolithic conglomerate. Eddie Quinn in Montreal was making serious noises concerning the accession of his protege, Edouard Carpentier, to the NWA throne. Tony Stecher was pushing for Verne Gagne or O'Connor as champ. When O'Connor defected, Stecher pushed even harder for Gagne. Vince McMahon and Toots Mondt favored Argentina Rocca or Buddy Rogers for the belt. All were agreed that they were tired of Thesz monopolizing the belt. They became more upset when Hutton won the belt from Thesz and proved a bust as a drawing card. The new champion's bookings mostly centered in the Midwest.

To attempt to settle this issue, it was proposed that O'Connor replace Hutton. Pat was a decent draw wherever he appeared and it was hoped that this would be a sop to Stecher and the Minneapolis office. Also, as O'Connor was a favorite in Montreal, perhaps Eddie Quinn could be appeased. If course, this is all speculation; but then, most attempts to put together the history of wrestling concerns speculation.

It should also be mentioned that most published "histories" of the AWA mention the fact that Ed Carpentier was the first recognized champion due to the fact that in his championship matches with Thesz, Thesz kept getting disqualified. He was supposedly warned not to do this but repeated this in his next bout with Carpentier and the

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Midwestern promoters recognized Carpentier as champ.

The only thing wrong with this secenario is that for Carpentier to be given the belt, he must have faced Thesz prior to 1957, for Thesz dropped the belt to Dick Hutton that year. Of course, there is no record of Carpentier actually being AWA champ, but, after all, this is wrestling. The AWA championship actually dates from 1960, which is during the reign of O'Connor as NWA champ.

I can only theorize that O'Connor was proposed as champ. Stetcher and Karbo wanted Gagne and Quinn pushed Carpentier. Both were rejected by the NWA "brain trust" as possibly not being trustworthy enough to be champion. In other words, once the promoter got his champ over, what was to prevent him from not agreeing to drop the belt to the next worthy titleholder? O'Connor had started with the Minneapolis A.C., but had switched allegiance to Chicago. That alone made him not acceptable to the Stetcher/Karbo camp.

O'Connor defeated Hutton for the NWA belt on January 9, 1959. Pat won the first fall with his rolling cradle, a move he introduced. Hutton came back to take the second with the abdominal stretch, and Pat won the final and deciding fall with the spinning toe hold.

Now that O'Connor was champ, it became evident that Gagne would not get the belt for the time being, if ever. And so, in late 1959, the Minneapolis contingent withdrew from the NWA and created the AWA.

O'Connor's reign was typical of the pattern of NWA champions. He reigned for about two years, and spent most of his first year meeting the former champ in a series of rematches. Unless the champ was a boffo box office draw, the plan was a new champ every two years or so. Buddy Rogers had been doing quite well across the country and was the protege of Vince McMahon and the eastern cabal. Rogers was chosen to be the next champion at confab of NWA promoters.

The interest in the match was tremendous by wrestling standards and the bout was placed at Comiskey Park, Chicago, which at the time was a hot-bed of professional wrestling. The paid crowd for the bout was announced at 38,622, though in reality it was somewhat less. The card seemed to have been booked by McMahon and mond't as there were quite a few eastern wrestlers on the undercard, including an exciting match between Antonio Rocca and Karl Von Hess.

Rogers took the first fall when O'Connor missed a tackle into the turnbuckle. O'Connor evened thing up with the rolling cradle and Rogers won the third fall when Pat missed a drop kick and Rogers covered for the victory. Pat continued wrestling until January 1, 1982, then moved into the St. Louis office, eventually becoming one of the trioka of promoters (Bob Geigel and Verne Gagne) who took over after Muchnick's retirement.

He is survived by his wife Julie; three daughters, Carly Alvarado, Erin Diven and Robyn O'Connor, as well as a brother, Mervyn, of New Zealand.

PROMOTERS

SAM MUNCHNICK (1988)
VINCE MCMAHON SR (1988)

CANDIDATES FOR 1990 INDUCTION

The number in parenthesis after each name indicates the number of years in which this wrestler has appeared on the ballot.

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLERS

JACK BRISCO (2)	GORGEOUS GEORGE (3)	VERNE GAGNE (3)
KARL GOTCH (3)	STRANGLER ED LEWIS (3)	KILLER KOWALSKI (3)
DR. BILL MILLER (3)	BRUNO SAMMARTINO (2)	PAT O'CONNOR (3)
SENSATIONAL DESTROYER (2)	KARL GOTCH (2)	JACKIE FARGO (2)
DANNY HODGE (2)	ANTONIO INOKI (1)	RIKIDOZAN (2)
TERRY FUNK (1)	ANDRE THE GIANT (1)	HARLEY RACE (1)
ORIGINAL TIGER MASK (SAYAMA) (1)		

TAG TEAMS

MAD DOG & BUTCHER VACHON (2)
 THE FABULOUS KANGAROOS (2)
 JACK AND JERRY BRISCO (2)
 DORY & TERRY FUNK (2)
 THE TORRES BROTHERS (2)
 OLE AND GENE ANDERSON (2)
 HARLEY RACE & LARRY HENNIG (1)

ANNOUNCERS PROMOTERS AND MANAGERS

DICK LANE (announcer) (3)	SAUL WEINGEROFF (manager) (3)
WALLY KARBO (promoter) (2)	PAUL JONES (Atlanta promoter) (2)
JACK BRICKHOUSE (announcer) (3)	FRANK TUNNEY (promoter) (2)
SAM BASS (manager) (3)	JIMMY LENNON (announcer) (3)
SAM MENNACHER (announcer) (1)	

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

UNLESS YOU FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS, YOUR VOTES WILL NOT COUNT!!!

1. You may vote for up to three individual wrestlers.
2. You may vote for up to two tag teams.
3. You may vote for up to two announcers, promoters or managers.
4. VOTES MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A POSTCARD ONLY. Write the name(s) of your selections on the card and mail them to **WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448**, no later than 11/30/90.
5. You need not be a subscriber to vote. Anyone reading this is eligible to submit a ballot.
6. Your postcard **MUST** contain your name & address. Only one ballot per person please. Anonymous ballots will not be counted.

Without a convention this year, there will be no induction ceremony as in years past. However, the announcement of inductees will be made in the Wrestling Forum 1990 Yearbook, along with biographical sketches and photos where possible.

Remember, we must receive ballots by **NOVEMBER 30, 1990** for them to count.

PROMOTERS

SAM MUNCHNICK (1988)
VINCE MCMAHON SR (1988)

CANDIDATES FOR 1990 INDUCTION

The number in parenthesis after each name indicates the number of years in which this wrestler has appeared on the ballot.

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLERS

JACK BRISCO (2)	GORGEOUS GEORGE (3)	VERNE GAGNE (3)
KARL GOTCH (3)	STRANGLER ED LEWIS (3)	KILLER KOWALSKI (3)
DR. BILL MILLER (3)	BRUNO SAMMARTINO (2)	PAT O'CONNOR (3)
SENSATIONAL DESTROYER (2)	KARL GOTCH (2)	JACKIE FARGO (2)
DANNY HODGE (2)	ANTONIO INOKI (1)	RIKIDOZAN (2)
TERRY FUNK (1)	ANDRE THE GIANT (1)	HARLEY RACE (1)
ORIGINAL TIGER MASK (SAYAMA) (1)		

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 THE TORRES BROTHERS (2)
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MEMPHIS-USWA

JERRY LAWLER WON THE one night tournament on 10/8 to become the new USWA Unified champion. The show was considered a success from an action standpoint as well as a financial one. The Mid South Coliseum was about half full (5000 or so) with a gate in excess of \$20,000. We'll get to a description of the matches in a moment, but first, let's take a look at the weird pairings that brought about the results...

JERRY LAWLER	)	JERRY LAWLER	)		
BYE	)		)	LAWLER	)
MEAN MARK CALLOUS)			)		)
BILL DUNDEE	)	MEAN MARK	)		)
			)	LAWLER	)
DANNY DAVIS	)		)		)
DICK SLATER	)	DICK SLATER	)		)
			)	SLATER	)
JEFF GAYLORD	)		)		)
DOUG GILBERT	)	JEFF GAYLORD	)		)
			)		)
STEVE KEIRN	)		)		)
DWB ANTHONY	)	STEVE KEIRN	)		)
			)	FUNK	)
TERRY FUNK	)		)		)
BRICKHOUSE BROWN	)	TERRY FUNK	)		)
			)		)
DICK MURDOCH	)		)	FUNK....)	)
SAMURAI	)	DICK MURDOCH	)		)
			)		)
EDDIE GILBERT	)		)		)
JIMMY VALIANT	)	EDDIE GILBERT	)		)
			)		)
JEFF JARRETT	)		)	GILBERT	)
SHEIK HUSSEIN	)	JEFF JARRETT	)		)
			)		)
JOHN TATUM	)		)		)
KING COBRA	)	JOHN TATUM	)	IDOL.....)	)
			)		)
AUSTIN IDOL	)		)	IDOL	)
GARY YOUNG	)	AUSTIN IDOL	)		)

the matches were not worked in the order of the pairings...

IN THE OPENING BOUT, Mark Callous beat Bill Dundee by DQ. Dundee brought in a chair to even the odds and was DQ. Nothing was said about Mark being Master of Pain several months ago.

DICK SLATER PINNED Danny Davis clean in the middle in the second match of the night. Jeff Gaylord then eliminated Doug Gilbert, also with a clean pinfall.

SAM BASS-LOWE HELD Jimmy Valiant's leg while Eddie Gilbert pinned him giving the Boogie Woogie man a short night. Jeff Jarrett was a winner over Sheik Abdul Hussein (George Weingeroff). John Tatum then eliminated King Cobra.

AUSTIN IDOL PLAYED a complete babyface in his win over Gary Young and remained a babyface through the final match. Terry Funk played complete heel and defeated Erickhouse Brown. Steve Keirn went to the second round after beating Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony. Final match of the first round saw Dick Murdoch basically squash Samurai.

THE SECOND ROUND SAW the matches get better in quality and more creative with the finishes as you had quite a few wrestlers who agreed to lose but only if they stayed strong. Lawler worked his first match and beat Mark Callous by DQ. Dick Slater pinned Jeff Gaylord in a match that differed from the rest as it was ill timed and not real good. Jeff Jarrett and Eddie Gilbert had a better than expected match (which is a compliment because they were expected to do well together) that went to a time limit draw. Instead of both wrestlers being eliminated, a coin toss decided that Gilbert was to advance (I wanna see that coin!).

AUSTIN IDOL CONTINUED AS A baby as he beat John Tatum in a good match. Terry Funk caught Steve Keirn in a small package when Keirn went to apply the figure four and pinned him.

THE THIRD ROUND HAD LAWLER pinning Dick Slater in a slugfest. The finish was the Moolah-Richter-belly-to-back, one-person-gets-their-shoulder-up-while-the-other-guy-pins-himself finish.

TERRY FUNK THEN BEAT Dick Murdoch when Captain Redneck was DQ'd for using Funk's branding iron. This was described to me as a good old fashioned Memphis brawl and one of the better matches on the card.

THE NEXT TWO MATCHES were called semi-finals, although you can see the weirdness in calling them that from the bracketing. Oh well. Gilbert offered Austin Idol a bunch of money to give him the match and not wrestle. Idol kept turning him down until he got to \$50,000. Idol agreed at the point and as Sam Bass Lowe was making out a check, Gilbert clobbered Idol with a briefcase. Gilbert held the upper hand till the last minute comeback which ended with Idol putting Gilbert in the figure four. Gilbert refused to give up, so Lowe threw in the towel to keep him strong.

THE BEST MATCH OF THE night was next. Jerry Lawler beat Terry Funk by DQ when Funk piledrove ancient ref Frank Morrell. A second ref came in to take over another "Memphis brawl" and he got piledriven as well. Gilbert took over as ref, but Lawler kept kicking out at the (very fast) two counts. A third ref came in and called the DQ and then Funk and Gilbert doubled on Jerry.

AUSTIN IDOL THEN GOT ON the house mike and told Jerry that he wanted this final match to be clean. He would give Lawler as much time as he needed to get ready. Jerry thanked him and went to shake his hand, but Idol met him with a kick in the stomach. Another brawl ensued and ended after a ref bump. Idol was holding Lawler up while Gilbert and Funk came down and attempted to double clothesline him. Lawler ducked at the last second and they clipped Idol instead. Lawler then took the easy pin for the championship. All three ganged up on Lawler after the match and Jeff Jarrett came in to make the save, but they posted his knee and left him for dead.

ON THE TV SHOW THE Saturday before the tournament, several things worth mentioning took place. First, Craig Johnson, who had done the play by play in World Class showed up to do color for Dave Brown, but that arrangement only lasted one week. At least he wasn't there this week.

EDDIE MARLIN AND JERRY Lawler also took time to recap the history of the Unified title beginning with Lawler's win over Curt Hennig. They also took the time to bash Snowman some more (who by the way, was in the audience Monday night and the promotion expected him to cause trouble, but nothing happened). They showed the clip of Snowman winning the belt with heel ref Leon Spinks refusing to count whenever Lawler had a pin. Marlin's comments were especially strong and said that they didn't need a champion who threatened to "hock the world title belt to a known drug dealer."

ALSO IN THE WEEK BEFORE it was announced that Jeff Jarrett had won the Southern championship from Dick Slater, even though they didn't say how or when. Sounds like an office change. Anyway, Jeff was out for an interview and Eddie Gilbert came out also in a suit and tie and they started arguing about the belt. Some semi-shoot comments went back and forth with Eddie saying that the only reason Jeff had the belt was because his daddy wrote the checks and Jeff got in a slam about Eddie going through his second divorce. Eddie started to leave, then turned suddenly and punched Jeff. It should be mentioned here that Eddie's \$1.95, K-Mart blue light special, clip on tie fell off. Gilbert took off his shoe and clobbered Jeff with it and Jeff hit a gusher. This led to a pull apart brawl with Jeff being helped off stage.

LATER IN THE SHOW, JEFF and Jeff Gaylord were scheduled to defend the tag team titles. Jarrett couldn't make it because of the injury so Joey Mags subbed for him against Doug Gilbert and Dirty White Boy. Jarrett finally came out all bandaged up and took his place in the match. The end saw Jarrett get tossed outside the ring where Eddie Gilbert had managed to hide underneath. Eddie held Jeff's leg and he was counted out. According to this week's rules, title changes occur on a count out so Gilbert and DWB are the new tag champs.

THE 10/15 CARD FEATURES several matches with feuds that started before the tournament. Brickhouse Brown wrestles DWB in a match with no referee and the loser (how do they determine a loser?) get make up put on them. This follows an angle started two weeks ago. Danny Davis takes on Doug Gilbert in another \$2500 challenge match. Davis won the first one, but last week Gilbert and Lowe came out and offered him another \$2500 if he could beat Gilbert again.

ANOTHER MATCH WAS TO HAVE Jeff "the Cripple" Jarrett and Jerry Lawler vs Eddie Gilbert and Austin Idol. Lawler wasn't in the studio on 10/13; he was in Cleveland making his annual sojourn to see his beloved Browns play football. When Jeff came out to do the interview for the upcoming match, he was triple teamed by Eddie, DWB and Sam Lowe. They put him in a figure four to further injure the knee they had hurt last Monday night.

LAWLER HAD CALLED THE STUDIO earlier and after the attack on Jeff, Bill Dundee ran in and demanded they phone Lawler back. He told Lawler over the phone that he could count on him to be there Monday night in place of Jeff. Lawler agreed and something tells me from the tone of things that we'll see Bill Dundee changing roles very soon.

TOJO YAMAMOTO IS BACK managing Samurai and Downtown Bruno is taking care of Sheik Abdul. They are forming a tag team known as the Internationals.

INTERESTING NOTE: IDOL AND Gilbert were shown doing interviews from the Mid South Coliseum following the tournament. Problem. Although both were dressed in wrestling gear, neither looked sweaty. I guess that means they taped the interviews BEFORE Idol turned heel. Just another example of how the sheets expose the business. We blab on the promotions when they do it inadvertently.

THEY WILL HAVE A TOP ten list here from now on and the first one was announced 10/13. It is: 10-Jimmy Valiant; 9-Bam Bam Bigelow; 8-Steve Dr Death Williams; 7-Dick Slater; 6-Dick Murdoch; 5-Bill Dundee; 4-Eddie Gilbert; 3-Terry Funk; 2-Austin Idol; 1-Jeff Jarrett and of course the champion is Jerry Lawler.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

RICK RUDE WAS FIRED the day before the latest set of TV tapings in Springfield, IL and Cape Girardo, MO. According to sources, Rude had become a "bad influence" in the dressing room as of late. At least, that's Titan's version. The main problem had something to do about money, probably Rude feeling that he wasn't getting enough. He had been telling other wrestlers that the NWA would take him in a minute and that may account for the reference to "bad influence." There is no word on what he plans to do.

FROM THE TV TAPINGS IN Springfield, Scotty the Body got a tryout and worked the opening match against Koko B. Ware. Scotty didn't do his normal heel routine as he seemed more intent on concentrating on moves. That may be a mistake as Titan is not exactly known for hiring wrestlers for their moves. Koko won it with a ghost-buster or whatever it is he calls that thing. **GRADE: C-**, slightly below average.

NEXT UP WAS PAUL DIAMOND vs BattleCat. NOBODY knew who BattleCat was and there was virtually no heat. This was a long match and if it ever sees broadcast, it'll be a miracle. Paul and Brady were missing moves right and left including screwing up the finish. Boone is supposed to hop up on Diamond's shoulders from behind, then do a frontwards roll. Getting up on Diamond's shoulders was clumsy and took quite a while. When they rolled, they rolled at an angle instead of straight forward and they ended up in the ropes, but the ref counted anyway. **GRADE: F.** Brady Boone is one of the best jobbers around, but under the hood and trying Japanese moves, he sucks.

RATHER THAN LIST EVERY single match, we'll just give a quick rundown of the squashes and angles ...

KERRY VON ERICH BEAT Buddy Rose; Sgt Slaughter had a squash match. After his match with him still in the ring, Randy Savage came out by **THE EGG** (more on this later) and started yelling at the ringsiders near it. He had a poster of Ultimate Warrior and he ended up ripping it up and tossing it to the crowd. He wasn't using a mike, so I have no idea what he was saying. This provided Sarge an easy exit from the ring as everyone who was taunting him was misdirected toward Savage.

TUGBOAT WON A SQUASH; Demolition (now wearing full masks instead of face paint) won their squash; Bo Derek beat Steve Lombardi - no wait! he only has his hair done like Bo Derek did in "10" with the cornrows! It's Davey 'Roid Smith, er ah, Davey Boy Smith, soon to be known only as the British Bulldog. Smith is huge!

FROM THERE; THEY HAD a bunch of kids come up and feel the egg and they were asking them what they thought was inside. That right there tells us it won't be a heel wrestler as we speculated last issue.

THE ROCKERS, SEAN MICHAELS back in action beat Buddy Rose and another jobber. They backdropped Rose at one point and deposited him on his head. Ouch.

BROTHER LOVE'S FIRST guest was Rick Martel who apologized for blinding Jake Roberts with the perfume. He had a present for him - a white cane. Jake then came out and pretended to not be able to see the audience or Brother Love (but he was sure to face the right camera at the right time). He said he couldn't take off his dark glasses because the lights would burn his eyes. It ended up with Martel coming back and slapping him after Jake had swung the cane at BroLove. Agents came out to take Martel away, but Jake grabbed BroLove and DDT'd him on the set. Jake's dark glasses came off during the melee and it looked like he had completely white contacts in. It was hard to tell from a distance.

TWO MORE SQUASHES followed with Warlord getting put over and then Bossman. Shane Douglas beat Black Bart in what will probably be a prime

time match. People were heading for the bathroom in droves during this one. Not good, and Shane won with a flying crossbody block off the ropes. **GRADE: D-** and only because of some nice aerial stuff by Douglas.

DARK MATCH: TUGBOAT vs Earthquake in a match much better than what it sounds. Both men did dropkicks during the match with Tugboat's landing Earthquake tied in the ropes. Tugboat went after Jimmy Hart and Dino Bravo did a run in. EQ got set to splash the Tugster but he rolled out of the way just in time and went outside the ring to get a chair, making his own save. **GRADE: C-**

THE SHEEPHACKERS WERE next and if I could have somehow gotten out of my seat, I would have visited the concession stand or something.

MEAN GENE CAME OUT TO the egg and gave a lesson in Psych 101. He played games with Mass Mind Control telling us to give the world a look at how Springfield fans can cheer. Gag. Next, he told us that Roddy wasn't there, but we could still chant his name for the cameras so that he'll know how much he's loved in Springfield. ROW-DY! ROW-DY! Double gag. Then he asked who everybody's favorite was. Lots of different answers, but he finally suggests that we all chant "WAR-RIOR", but he had a hard time keeping that one going. Amazing. And sickening. Then he asked us who we didn't like. "How 'bout that Earthquake guy? Boooo!" Everyone of the Titan cameramen were prompting the fans with a thumbs down sign. If you happen to see a guy sitting in his seat with a red AWA jacket pulled over his head, that's me.

HAD MR. SPOCK BEEN in attendance, his logic circuits would have blown at this time. Sgt. Slaughter beat Nicolai Volkoff with a camel clutch in a dark match. What was logic defying was the chant of "USA" during the match. Think about it for a minute or until your head starts hurting like mine did. Nicolai doesn't take bumps anymore, he takes slumps. Nice guy; gawd-awful wrestler. **GRADE: F-** and that might be too high.

DUSTY RHODES HAD BEEN scheduled to wrestle Ted DiBiase but he came out in "street clothes" and explained the angle we'll see Saturday night with Dustin and DiBiase. He said that DiBiase had hurt his son badly and that Ted claimed that he could beat Dustin in ten minutes or less. Dusty said that Dustin said Ted couldn't. Dusty asked us if we would mind if Dustin took his place tonight if he (Dusty) were to be in Dustin's corner. The crowd responded in the affirmative and I had my coat over my head again.

HE LEFT THE RING AND WE got another Brother Love segment. This one left us feeling like we'd walked in on the middle of something, but it soon explained itself. I should mention that before the cameras went on, Vince McMahon was there having a heated argument with both BroLove and Bobby Heenan. After the cameras went on, BroLove started talking about how terrible it was that Jack Tunney was censoring Bobby Heenan, telling him that he couldn't say bad things about Bossman's mother anymore and how tragic it was that Heenan was going to have to step in the ring with Bossman. Heenan started apologizing left and right telling BroLove to see how sorry he was; to look into his eyes and see his sincerity; to feel his heart and feel his warmth and sincerity. They ended up both getting down on their knees and asking Bossman's mother's forgiveness. It was hilarious!

THEN IT WAS TIME FOR the Dustin-DiBiase match. This match had heat throughout. Dustin is a much better wrestler than his dad ever "dreamed" of being. It wasn't bad and Ted carried it for eight minutes before the load got too heavy. He put the sleeper on Dustin with thirty seconds left to go in the match and it ended with Dustin going nighty-night, but not before time had expired. The ref called it a draw and the crowd went crazy since DiBiase had not won in the required ten minute time limit. DiBiase hit Dustin with the Million Dollar belt and Dusty made the save with a chair. The people in back of us were big Dusty

fans but couldn't explain why. The teenage girl kept hitting me (playfully, I think) when I would cheer for DiBiase.

CURT HENNIG HAD A SQUASH next which was followed by the Orient Express against the Road Warriors. Tanaka and Sato played the part of human ping pong balls throughout. The Roadies had them set up for the top rope clothesline when Demolition ran in and did a number on them. It was five on two and no one bothered to make the save. We figure this should air during the second hour. One interesting note: a photographer from one of the Japanese magazines was there shooting the angle from a front row seat. Titan was not aware of this, but rest assured the pictures will see print in Japan. That ought to make the Roadies REAL happy.

TONY ATLAS SQUASHED Bob Bradley. The only thing worth mentioning here is the face that Bradley made directly into a camera when choking Tony on the ropes.

IN A MATCH TAPED PROBABLY for Primetime, Jimmy Snuka beat Haku in a match that was pretty boring. Ten years ago, well, that might have been interesting, but not in 1990. Snuka won with a crossbody block after he reversed the momentum that Haku had already reversed (huh?).

GRADE: D+.

WARLORD WON A SQUASH.

HENNIG BEAT VON ERICH by count out. It was basically the same match I saw in Peoria a few weeks ago. I left my ringside seat and sat up top in the cheap seats for this one and found out something. Kerry smashes Curt's head intot he turnbuckle and Curt goes FLYING backwards. I've always been amazed at how he gets so much height and distance backwards. The mystery is solved. When his opponent runs him towards the buckels, he jumps at the last minute on the bottom strand of ropes and uses it as a springboard backwards. Kerry's using the claw more and more, even in his squash earlier. One interesting part of the match had Kerry on the outside apron getting ready to swan dive Curt. Curt was supposed to bring his knees up to hit Kerry in the midsection, but he didn't need to. On the dive over, Kerry's feet (foot? boot?) caught the top rope and he went flat on his face. After Kerry was counted out, the brawled all the way back to the dressing room. **GRADE: C+.**

THREE MORE SQUASHES were next with Barbarian, then Power & Glory, then Duggan winning. In the Power & Glory match, what I always feared would happen with their finisher, did. Reno Riggins was the job boy and when Herc gave him the superplex, they bounced after they landed. Roma was already in flight and landed on Riggins' head. He had to be helped from the ring.

THE ROADIES GOT A REMATCH with the Orient Express, probably for the last week of this taping. They won easily with the top rope clothesline. Tanaka took the 360° bump.

THE THIRD AND FINAL BROTHER Love segment had Curt Hennig and Demolition out for a Survivor Series interview. They will be known as the Perfect Team. By the way, BroLove is wearing a cervical collar after the DDT.

IN THE MAIN EVENT (WHICH went on at 11:25 pm), the Roadies and Ultimate beat Demolition with Dingbat pinning Smash. Those that stayed this long created a lot of heat, but about 20% of the audience had left already.

REACTION TO THE SHOW was mixed. Part of the fun I had was watching one ringsider down about nine beers during the night and get increasingly more upset with the squash matches. He was pretty hot about it after the third match of the night so by the end, he was downright livid. The beer in his case mellowed him a bit.

ANOTHER GUY IN THE RESTROOM was falling down drunk and when he grabbed my notes, I helped him the rest of the way down. That was the hardest punch of the evening.

THE FAMILY BEHIND US WERE very upset that they had paid \$15.00 a ticket to see "fake matches where you knew who was going to win before they even started." I talked to a security guard who said he hoped they never taped from here again because the most asked question of the night was "when the Hell is this going to be over?"

READERS CHRIS MARTIN OF Springfield and Randy McNeely and Tom Cherrington of Higinland Park were on hand to help me get through the evening. Randy wants me to make sure I tell you that he's not nearly as obnoxious in person as he is in print.

IN OTHER NEWS BEFORE THE latest edition of Saturday Night's Main Event, Titan will be cutting back to two shows a night starting November 9. They have been running three different teams around the country. This is thought to be a cost cutting move since gates around haven't been real great. By the way, I don't have the paid attendance, but there were about 4500 i for the Springfield show and one source at the box office told me there were a bunch of comps.

THAT STUPID EGG IS GOING TO hatch at Survivor Series. I'm told now that it won't be a wrestler, but a chicken (and not Terry Taylor). This thing will be the official WWF mascot kind of like the San Diego Chicken or the Philly Phanatic. How 'bout you? I'm holding my breath in anticipation!

ACTUALLY, THIS MAY NOT be a bad idea. They could have two different chickens who went to all the house shows and if they do it right, use the chicken as a drawing card the same way baseball teams use the San Diego Chicken to boost attendance.

THE LATEST EDITION OF Saturday Night's Main Event aired this past Saturday, and as good as the previous few have been, this one stunk just as bad. The show opened with the Road Warriors and Ultimate Warrior beating Demolition. Warrior had quite a bit of ring time and he single handedly destroyed Demolition after coming in on a tag. Reason: After running to the ring and shaking the ropes, the tag team atmosphere gave him hime to rest up. Actually, everyone did a pretty good job, Warrior included (who has to be considered for Most improved Wrestler of the year). Warrior ended up pinning Smash and that would probably kill off the feud with the Road Warriors except for the angle they shot in Springfield. GRADE: B-

THE ON GOING THEME for this edition of SNME was an Octoberfest celebration. The polka music in the background reminded me of wrestling shows when I was growing up. "All Time Great Polka Hits with Frankie Yankovik! Order your copy today!"

NEXT MATCH WAS THE MUCH ballyhooed match with Savage and Rhodes with Dibiase buying up all the front row seats. As reported last issue, Dustin, sitting ringside, took a head shot with a chair and was busted open. It was not the gusher that was described here, and I'm told that not all that much editing had to be done. One caller said that the blood wasn't that bad; it just looked like Dustin had been eating a McDonald's hamburger and missed his mouth badly. One interesting note: Both McMahon and Piper ignored the blood and made no reference to it. I didn't grade this match, because it was secondary to the angle. Savage did look to be working extremely hard, though.

HOGAN AND TUGBOAT BEAT Rhythm & Blues by DQ when Earthquake and Bravo did a run in. The match itself was boring and no one was notable in their work. The end had Earthquake going for the big one when Tugboat recovered outside, grabbed Honky Tonk's guitar and clobbered him as he came off the ropes. No posing for Hogan this time. GRADE: D

A RUNNING GAG DURING the Octoberfest spots had Lord Alfred Hayes ready to do an interview with one of the organizers. Hayes had clearly forgotten to put in his earpiece so that Gene could tell him he was on, so we kept sneaking up on him as he got increasingly drunk on the local beer. I'm sure someone thought this was funny when they came up with the idea.

THE FOURTH MATCH ON THE show was Kerry Von Erich pinning Haku after a claw and a discus punch. Again, nothing remarkable about the match itself, but Vince and Roddy did refer to Kerry as Kerry once or twice. Funny. In Springfield, security came up to a kid who had a poster that said "Texas Tornado! Go Kerry Von Erich!" and they made him fold it so that the Kerry part was hidden. Later the kid opened it up anyway, but security was gone by that time or they gave up on the matter. Back to this match, GRADE: C

THE FINAL MATCH OF THE night promised to be a real stinker. It had Koko B Ware getting beat by Sergeant Slaughter. Surprise here; both guys were working. Granted, it was a short match, but Sarge actually looked like he was trying to impress someone. GRADE: C+ Not much of an impression but loads better than I expected.

THE WRAP UP OF THE Octoberfest featured the best action of the night: a food fight straight out of Animal House (and oh so appropriate in the WWF). Even during the food fight, the Orient Express were bouncing around like human ping pong balls. One notable absent from the fight: Curt Hennig. Somehow he gets out of doing a lot that's required of the other Titan wrestlers.

ONE FORGETTABLE SCENE was a sausage stuffing contest between some of the babies and heels with Lanny Poffo as special guest something-or-other. It was enough to make you become a vegetarian. Lots of crude, inside humor during this, and let's just let it rest at that.

THE CURRENT WWF MAGAZINE carries a story on the injury to Brutus Beefcake. It even includes a quote from Brian Blair who was there with Brutus when the accident occurred. Pressure from all kinds of directions including from Hulk himself led to the story. Latest word on Beefy is that he's doing fine and traveling to some shows with blond hair. I'm told that his face is puffy, but other than that, no real change. They aren't even speculating that he'll ever wrestle again.

NEXT SET OF TAPINGS WILL be from Indianapolis on the 29th and Fort Wayne on the 30th. Sean Hendrick reports that Rochester will get a return TV taping after that so we'll have a first hand ringside report on that one.

LOCALLY, THE WWF RETURNS to Peoria on the 17th of November for an afternoon show (presumably on their way to St Louis since they're running Chicago on 10/27). Believe it or not, Hulk Hogan is announced for the card and the TV station and Civic Center in Peoria almost pressured Titan in to making him appear. Titan agreed because for some reason, popping a crowd in Peoria of more than 3000 has been impossible since the TV taping there several years ago. They want to see just what kind of drawing power Hogan has.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

9/28 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of FRED NAARISMA...Tim Horner pinned Mario Savoldi...Alan Iron Eagle beat Dr. X...Juicer over Dutch Mantell...Master Blaster Steele pinned Tom Zenk...Steiner Brothers beat State Patrol...Terry Taylor defeated Iron Sheik...Flair/Anderson/Vicious over JYD/Gigante/Pillman...Sting pinned Black Scorpion...NOTES: Attendance: 4000...Randy Culley's turn to play Black Scorpion tonight...Pillman had Flair rolled up for pin, but Anderson DDT'd him with a blind ref to gain the win...Savoldi did some nice moves as a jobber in the opener...Zenk got about 40% boos on his entrance.

9/30 SUNRISE, FL (NWA) - courtesy of CHARLIE MATTOS...Buddy Landell pinned Lou Perez...Mike Rotundo over Michael Hayes...Kevin Sullivan DDQ Tyree Pride...Tommy Rich pinned Master Blaster Blade...Southern Boyes over Midnight Express...Ricky Morton beat Butch Reed...Lex Luger downed Harley Race...NOTES: Attendance: 850...usually draws between 2500-3000...fans chanted "steroids" at MB Blade...Jim Cornette with perhaps the comment of the year, introduced Stan as the "1990 Planned parenthood father of the year"...no shows included Robert Gibson, Ron Simmons, and Barry Windham...Southern Boys were originally supposed to wrestle the Freebirds.

10/6 OMAHA (WWF) - courtesy of BRUCE GRUMBERT...Koko B Ware beat Genius...Sgt Slaughter beat Nicolai Volkof...Barbarian pinned Jim Brunzell...Orient Express over Bushwhackers...Brooklyn Brawler downed Barry O...Curt Hennig by COR over Kerry...LOD/Warrior beat Demolition...NOTES: Attendance: 4747...Orient Express, especially Pat Tanaka worked hard...Curt-Kerry also a good match...Road Warriors were ignored by fans chanting "Warrior" for Dingbat...he posed for them after the match...rest of card pretty boring.

10/6 BOSTON (WWF) - BY SEAN GRANDE...Dino Bravo pinned Tito Santana (B-)...Paul Diamond beat Bob Bradley (D+)...Davey Boy Smith over Haku (C-)...Ted DiBiase defeated Dusty Rhodes (B-)...Jimmy Snuka beat Warlord by COR (D)...Tugboat over Earthquake by DQ (C+)...Hart Foundation by DQ over Rhythm and Blues (B+)...NOTES: Attendance: 2500...Card had an early start since the Bruins moved up their hockey game due to the Red Sox being in the playoffs...very short card.

10/11 MIAMI (WWF) - courtesy of CHARLIE MATTOS...Koko B Ware beat Boris Zhukov (D-)...Rick Martel pinned Tito (B-)...Orient Express over the Bushwhackers (B-)...Hennig won by COR over Kerry (D+)...Jim Brunzell downed Genius (D)...Warrior/LOD beat Demolition/Hennig (C+)...NOTES: Attendance 4350...Demolition Smash a no show, hence Mr. Perfect in Main Event...Martel subbed for Barbarian (no complaint)...Perfect-Tornado only 4 minutes - no heat awful match considering these two...four and a half minutes till lock up in Koko-Zhukov match...Martel & Santana was best match.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

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LAST ISSUE WE REQUESTED that you send in your top ten workers list for the summer quarter of 1990. Because last issue went out so late and this issue is almost on time, the number of ballots was low. Next time we do this, I'll give you a two issue span to get your ballots in. Meanwhile, here is the Wrestling Forum Readers' Top Ten:

1. CURT HENNIG (118)
2. JUSHIN RIGER (103)
3. RIC FLAIR (99)
4. SCOTT STEINER (94)
5. LEX LUGER (89)
6. RICK RUDE (75)
7. RICK STEINER (63)
8. BOSSMAN (61)
8. EDDIE GILBERT (61)
10. STEVE AUSTIN (49)

OTHERS WHO ALMOST made the list (in order of finish): Marty Jannetty, Terry Funk, Stan Hansen, Pat Tanaka, Ron Simmons, Ultimate Warrior, and Bobby Eaton.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF very good bulletins on the market. My personal favorite is ARENA REPORT as done by Ron Lemieux. It comes out twice a month and is 75¢ per issue (plus sometimes you get to pay an extra 20¢ postage due at your local post office). Send money to ARENA REPORT, 916 SLOEWOOD CT, LAKE MARY, FL 32746.

MEANWHILE, WADE KELLER IS blowing everyone out of the water with Pro Wrestling Torch Weekly. Torch has become the best bulletin on the market today. You may want to stuff an IBM compatible computer down certain columnist's throats, but the news and views are top rate. Five bucks gets you four issues at BOX 201844, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55420.

YEAR END AWARDS START in the November 15 issue. We hope that you're looking as forward to this years' voting as we are. We've combined those with some super ideas for the yearbook and we should have another product we're proud of.

I PARKED BESIDE A VAN in Springfield (actually, that's just where the car gave out at) that three jobbers climbed out of. They made some comments about my jacket and we struck up a conversation, the end result of which was one of the promising to write an article in the Week with the Fed vein. I won't be holding my breath.

CONGRATS GO OUT TO READER Ken Snider of Waukegan and his wife Tina on the birth of a son last week. Mom and baby are doing fine.

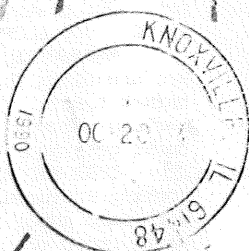
THEY JUST FIGURED OUT that four hours of therapy is hurting me more than helping, so that's been cut down. We should be back on track with in a month or so.

UNTIL THEN, TAKE CARE. All of you that are headed for Chicago, have fun, and think of us ever once in a while (in a nice way, please). Meanwhile, we'll see y'all in two weeks back on these pages.

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Luis Muñoz Marín

